

STATE SENATOR • GRETCHEN WHITMER • 23<sup>RD</sup> DISTRICT

# Whitmer Press Release

P.O. Box 30036 • Lansing • Michigan • 48909-7536 • 517-373-1734 • Fax: 517-373-5397  
E-mail: [gwhitmer@senate.michigan.gov](mailto:gwhitmer@senate.michigan.gov) • [www.senate.mi.gov/whitmer](http://www.senate.mi.gov/whitmer)



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
May 4, 2006

CONTACT: Sen. Gretchen Whitmer  
PHONE: 517-373-1734

## Whitmer Receives Outstanding MSU Alumni Award

*Whitmer: "MSU can be the cornerstone of our state's economic rebound."*

LANSING—On Thursday, State Sen. Gretchen Whitmer (D-East Lansing) will be recognized by the Michigan State University (MSU) College of Communication Arts and Sciences with the Outstanding Alumni Award, the college's most prestigious honor.

"Michigan State is an exceptional institution that trains world-class scholars and leaders," said Whitmer. "It is my hope and belief that our University can be the cornerstone of Michigan's economic rebound if we harness this power and combine it with our business and government resources."

The College of Communication Arts and Sciences Outstanding Alumni Awards are presented annually by the CAS Alumni Board in recognition of outstanding achievement in the field of communication. This year marks the 34th annual award.

"We are very pleased to have Senator Whitmer as one of this year's recipients," said Charles Salmon, Dean of the College of Communication Arts and Sciences. "She made an impression on our faculty as a student and is a proven leader in her profession and her career."

Whitmer will also attend the college's graduation ceremony on Friday, May 5. She received her BA in Communications from Michigan State in 1993 and, in 1998, earned her law degree, Magna Cum Laude, from the Detroit College of Law at MSU. She currently represents Michigan's 23<sup>rd</sup> District as a state senator and served in the Michigan House prior to her March election to the Senate. Both Whitmer's former House seat and her current Senate seat include MSU.

Communication professors Steve McCornack and Kelly Morrison recall having Senator Whitmer as a student: "Gretchen impressed us from the beginning as a thoughtful, perseverant, intelligent, hard-working and ambitious student. Upon learning that she was interested in joining the legislature, we both were extremely supportive and felt she possessed genuine caring and concern for the diverse community of East Lansing and MSU."

This year's other winners of the Distinguished Alumni Award include Susan L. Jacoby, Jana F. O'Brien, Michael G. Olman, and Kim A. Wilcox, Ph.D. In addition, the College will also honor the following graduates as Rising Star Alumni and Honorary Alumni: Nedra Pickler, White House correspondent, Rising Star, D. Stevens McVoy, Curator of the Early Television Museum, Honorary Alumni Award, and Neil Shine, retired publisher of the Detroit Free Press, Honorary Alumni Award. Past award winners of the CAS Outstanding Alumni Award include Barbara Bryant, former Director of the Census Bureau, and Don Gonyea, National Public Radio correspondent.

"I am honored to be recognized among these distinguished fellow alumni," said Whitmer. "Because of alumni like them and MSU's international reputation, I knew my communication degree would give me the tools I needed to succeed."

# # #